

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 07059 071604Z

44

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-07 IGA-02 TRSE-00 MC-02 MMO-01

/064 W

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O 071525Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4475

INFO SECDEF WASHDC/DSAA/ISA (SA) IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE/ECJ4/7-SA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 7059

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS XX TS

SUBJECT: NSSM 243-MAAG REQUIREMENTS STUDY

REF: A. STATE 249341, DTG 070404Z OCT 76

B. TUNIS 3677, DTG 241557Z MAY 76

C. TUNIS 3632, DTG 2112 " MAY 76

1. THIS MSG RESPONDS TO YOUR REFTEL A, QUERY ON MAAG  
REDUCTION FY 78.

2. I HAVE STATED MY POSITION ON THE RETENTION OF THE  
U.S. MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE IN TUNISIA IN MY MESSAGES,  
REF B AND C. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, PREFER TO RETAIN  
USLOT AS IT IS PRESENTLY ORGANIZED.

3. IF SECSTATE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN  
CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR RETENTION OF USLOT AT PRESENT  
STRENGTH LEVEL AS STATED IN PARA 5A, REF A, I WOULD CONCUR  
IN REDUCTION TO SIX MILITARY SPACES AS INDICATED BY YOUR  
OPTION, PARA 5B. THE REDUCTION TO SIX MILITARY SPACES  
WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE THAN THE ALTERNATIVE OF FORCED  
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CONGRESSIONAL REDUCTION TO THREE SPACES OR POSSIBLE COMPLETE

ELIMINATION.

4. USLOT PRESENTLY HAS NINE AUTHORIZED MILITARY POSITIONS. USLOT WOULD ENVISION THE RETENTION OF SIX MILITARY POSITIONS TO INCLUDE AN ARMY COLONEL AS CHIEF, AN AIR FORCE LTC, A NAVY LCDR, AN ARMY MAJOR, AN ARMY SUPPLY SERGEANT, AND A MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. THE PREPONDERANCE OF ARMY EFFORT CORRESPONDS, OF COURSE, TO THE CURRENT EFFORT BY TUNISIA TO UPGRADE HER ARMED FORCES, AND, PARTICULARLY HER EFFORT TO MODERNIZE THE TUNISIAN ARMY. THE THREE SPACES REDUCED WOULD BE DELETED BY NORMAL PERSONNEL ATTRITION.

5. IN VIEW OF THE PLANNED-FOR INCREASE OF FY 76-80 FMS CREDITS TO TUNISIA REACHING \$125 MILLION, THE PENDING FMS CREDIT SALE OF THE CHAPARRAL-VULCAN BN, POTENTIAL SALES OF TOW MISSILE ANTI-TANK SYSTEM, HELICOPTERS, HOWITZERS, AND NAVAL COASTAL PATROL AND INTERDICTION CRAFT, I CONSIDER SIX MILITARY POSITIONS TO BE THE BARE MINIMUM IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THE MILITARY SECURITY EFFORT IN TUNISIA. FURTHERMORE, WHEN WE CONSIDER THE TUNISIAN MOD'S STATED \$500 M FY 76-80 OVERALL DEFENSE PROGRAM, THE REQUIREMENT FOR U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE WILL INCREASE RATHER THAN REGRESS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

6. REF YOUR QUERY, PARA 6, REF A, AS TO HOST COUNTRY'S WILLINGNESS TO FUND MAAG. TUNISIA IS NOT NOW FUNDING ANY PORTION OF USLOT COSTS AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE GOT WOULD DEFRAID ANY OF THE USLOT COSTS IN THE FUTURE.

7. I CONSIDER THE RETIONALE PROVIDED IN MY 3632 STILL VALID.  
MULCAHY

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## Message Attributes

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